In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. provisional patent application (Application No. 60/234,028), filed September 20, 2000 and entitled "High Speed LAN Switching Controller," the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.   This application contains subject matter related to U.S. patent application number 09/718,696 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 39983/JEJ/X2/134019)~~ filed November 21, 2000 and entitled "Stage-Implemented QoS Shaping for Data Communication Switch."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 26 through page 9, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Standard 802.1Q entitled "Virtual Bridged Local Area Networks" publication date of March 8, 1999 ,defines an industry standard for virtual bridged local area networks (VLANs). The 802.1Q standard, among other things, defines a convention for adding a tag header to a Layer 2 data packet, i.e. a "frame", in the creation of an 802.1Q-compliant packet. The tag header may include, among other things, a VLAN Identifier and a priority value assigned to the packet. The VLAN Identifier typically determines what LAN devices are authorized to receive the packet, and the priority value typically determines how fast the packet will be received by the authorized LAN devices relative to other packets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 26 through page 9, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The switching module 200 preferably also includes other elements that are used to facilitate packet processing operations. These switch elements preferably include but are not limited to a packet forwarding logic 220 and a QoS shaping logic 215. The QoS shaping logic

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215 and the packet forwarding logic 220 preferably are coupled to the switching controller 211. The switching module 200 may also include other sub-modules for performing various different tasks.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph

The switching module 200 preferably is an ingress buffered switch, in which most of the large buffers are located at the inbound side. Thus, internal and outbound priority value determinations preferably are made at the inbound side where most of the buffers are located. In other embodiments, determination of the internal and outbound priority values may be done at the outbound side. In still other embodiments, determination of the internal and outbound priority values may be performed by distributed processing, in which some of the processing for determination of the priority values is done at the inbound side and some processing is done at the outbound side. If the priority values are added to the packet header, for example, QoS shaping/provisioning may be performed at the outbound side using outbound buffers.

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